

What They Do at Jesse Lee Home

At 5 a. m. two of the larger girls get up and start the breakfast. At 6 a. m. comes the rising bell. Some of the larger girls have the task of combing the hair of the little girls and tying their ribbons. At 6.30 the boys at the boys' house form in line and go to the large house, and as soon as they are seen coming a gong rings in the girls' house and the girls get in line on the second floor. The children quietly march into the dining room and a teacher then reads a portion of Scripture, offering a prayer at the close in which all unite. After breakfast comes general housework until it is time to get ready for school.

The work is changed each month so that the girls go in succession through all departments. One girl looks after the teachers' rooms, another does the dormitory work; others sweep halls, or stairs, or wash dishes. One girl will attend to the bread and as it takes thirty loaves of bread for each day's baking, that is quite a task. The little girls who cannot do much work wipe dishes, count the knives, forks and spoons and hunt for them if any are missing. They also pick up the dishes and brush the crumbs from the table. While this is going on, girls are taking their turns at practicing their music lessons.

With the boys it is the same. One big boy milks the cow, and does the barn work, while others run the pumping plant, or care for the boys' dormitory or for other rooms. The small boys provide kindlings and coal for certain rooms at the big house, and take up the ashes. At 8.30 a bell rings and the children get ready for school. At 9 o'clock they are in school, returning at about 15 minutes before 12. Dinner is at noon and as school begins at 1 o'clock that is a very busy time as all the dinner work must be done before they start for school. At 3.30 they are home again and work until 5 o'clock, when they begin to get ready for supper, which is at 6.30.

Of course, the smaller children have much time for play, but the older ones have various tasks from time to time. Some evenings are given up

to reading or games while at other times the girls sew for an hour, either mending, making new clothes, or doing fancy work. At other times a class in knitting is held. The girls receive a commission on the fancy work made and sold. One night a week all the larger boys and girls meet together for a class in vocal music; they enjoy this very much, as they read the music by notes and they sing in four parts.

The boys do the odd chores about the place, tend to the garden work, overhaul the shoes once a week and repair them, and they also hunt and fish and get in the grass for the stock.

Monday morning at 4 a. m. the larger boys go to the laundry and start the big wash going, and after breakfast seven or eight girls join them in the work; before dinner it is all done. Most of the time the clothes must be dried in the house and that means a lot of work—hanging up the clothes, turning them on the lines—taking them down and hanging other things up. The same morning the Superintendent goes to the storeroom to put out the supplies for the week. A crowd of little boys hang around smiling, and outside, in the little girls' play-yard, a lot of little girls watch the storeroom windows. It is the custom of the Superintendent to throw out a hardtack and sometimes a few figs to each of them—hence the interest they have in the matter.

Tuesday is ironing day and the six or seven ironing boards are kept in use by busy hands. On that day forty or more pairs of stockings must be mended and that is a task that would take the breath away from the ordinary housewife. In the summer the children, especially the boys, play by the lake or near the beach, and they get sand in their shoes which are often wet and this combination is very hard on the stockings. Often there is hardly the semblance of a foot left.

Wednesday comes the mending of all sorts of garments and the boys usually see to it that plenty of their overalls, jumpers, etc., are in for repairs.

Saturday morning comes the scrubbing and all the children must also have a bath. The afternoon is a holiday and in winter they have fine

times sliding or skating, while in the summer they can go on the hills to play. Sunday is the busy day for the teachers. Sunday-school is held in the morning and a number of children from the village attend. After Sunday-school and between dinner time and service, a teacher looks out for the boys and one for the girls. If the weather is stormy, as it usually is, the boys are in the chapel—some of them read their papers, the small fry roll about the floor playing with picture books, puzzles or blocks, while others keep the phonograph humming. A boy usually sits at the piano playing for all he is worth, and they will keep the piano going steadily for two or three hours. Another group will be listening to a story the teacher is telling. It is a medley of noise and confusion, but generally all are happy. If the weather is pleasant the children go on the hills to pick flowers, or berries, or just to roll down the steep sides and enjoy themselves. If the grass is wet they simply take a walk to the wharf and back. At 3 p. m. a song service is held and it is the opinion of visitors that our children know how to sing.

After supper the children either read or a teacher reads some story to them. They like to hear good stories. During the past year they have listened to such stories as "The Tale of Two Cities," "Neighbor Jackwood," "Seven Oaks" and "The Crisis."

In the summer time routine work is somewhat interfered with. When the boys get the grass for the silo the girls help to carry it in racks from the beach to the barn, where it is put into the silo, and as the boys may arrive at most any time with a load, it must be cared for in a hurry. If there is a swell on the beach the boat will ship water, and if it is left on the bank of the beach the cows will get at it. Then when the boys go fishing they arrive home with a number of hundred fish which must be cleaned and dressed and salted down right away—then all hands leave their work and attend to the fish.

In the berry season if a sunny day comes along, work is laid aside and all the older boys and girls go to the berry patch, some six miles away; the boys go on one side of the valley and the girls

on the other and they have a race to see who will pick the most berries. They usually get seventy to one hundred quarts of blueberries on a trip. These berries are used raw, cooked as sauce, or in pies, and some are dried for winter use.

Folks might wonder what we have to eat. While fresh beef is rarely seen on our tables, and vegetables only as we raise them, yet we have plenty of lettuce, radishes, and turnips from our garden. While there are not many cattle roaming this way, there are lots of whales swimming in the sea. What is nicer than a nice juicy roast of young finback whale steak? It would make your mouth water if you only knew how good it tastes. Then, too, the blubber is much relished by the children when sliced up and fried, and so are the big black flippers. Then there are the sea lions, though the meat is not quite so nice. The fish in the sea are of the finest kind—salmon, humpback, dog, and silver, also herring, halibut and codfish. In their season we have clams and other shell food.

While the children have plenty of work and plenty of schooling yet they have plenty of time for play also. A large lake on the land provides a place where the boys can sail their schooners, or fish. The little boys are so used to falling in and getting a ducking that they consider that as a part of the routine of their lives. A tennis court and also croquet sets with baseball give them recreation outside.

These children gathered from the distant parts of Alaska—from the frozen north, from the islands of the sea, from the regions to the east of us, find here a pleasant home, and good care and they are, indeed, a happy family.

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